

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

121114Z Aug 05

ACTION HHS-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	USNW-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DS-00	UTED-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	VCE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00
	NSAE-00	OES-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	PER-00	IRM-00	SS-00
	SA-00	FMP-00	DSCC-00	G-00	CCR-00	SAS-00	/001W
				-----26D9FA	131834Z	/80	

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2395
AMCONSUL CHENNAI
AMCONSUL MUMBAI
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
USMISSION GENEVA
CDC ATLANTA GA
DEPT OF HHS WASHDC
ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 006295

SIPDIS

HHS PASS TO NIH

STATE PASS TO USAID

PASS TO HHS/OGHA (STEIGER/BHAT), CDC (BLOUNT/MCCRAY),
NIH/FIC (HYRNKOW/EISS)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KSCA](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: POST FLOOD DISEASE WAVE IN MUMBAI

1. (U) SUMMARY: Mumbai is facing a wave of post flood infectious diseases. Newspaper reports have put the death toll at 66 for Mumbai and suburbs. Most of the deaths have been attributed to leptospirosis and dengue. Maharashtra health authorities believe that while the incidence is high, the disease burden is manageable. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) Mumbai was devastated by floods a fortnight ago and now is facing threat of leptospirosis outbreak. Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease caused by a spiral bacterium, Leptospira and transmitted by rat urine. The organism passes through minute abrasions when contaminated floodwater comes in contact with abraded skin. Leptospirosis can present as fever, vomiting, jaundice, hemorrhages, acute respiratory distress syndrome and even multi organ failure.

3.(U) At least 66 deaths due to leptospirosis and dengue (a mosquito borne viral disease) have been reported in and around Mumbai by newspapers since 29th July. Typical presentations have been high fever, vomiting, and acute respiratory distress syndrome. The state government has invoked special provisions of the Epidemic Act adding leptospirosis to the list of notifiable diseases thus making it obligatory for practitioners to treat fever cases and notify suspected leptospirosis cases.

4. (U) A team from Central Government, comprising of an epidemiologist, microbiologist and entomologist from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi has been sent to Mumbai for evaluation and control of the situation. On 11 August 2005, the Director General Indian Council of Medical Research and Director National Institute of Communicable Diseases have been sent to assess the situation. According to the Dean of KEM Medical College and hospital in Mumbai, the focus is on early diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Surveillance work is also being carried out.

5. (U) According to health authorities in Mumbai, the situation is tense but under control as leptospirosis is an easily treatable disease. Local media is reporting lack of preparedness by health authorities in Mumbai and have blamed policy makers for the health crisis in Mumbai. This is corroborated by the fact that the disaster management and health group of Red Cross had written a report of threats and needs for preparedness immediately after floods.

6. (U) In their report Red Cross had put leptospirosis as the topmost threat and the need to stock doxycycline as highest priority. Prior to writing this report, the Red Cross had consulted with HHS staff at the embassy about the threats. This consultation formed the basis of their report. HHS staff followed up with Red Cross today and they informed that no steps were yet initiated in response to their report.

BLAKE

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